

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

1. On page 1, in the section entitled "RELATED APPLICATIONS", please amend paragraphs 2 and 3, lines 3 through 8 as follows:

U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. _____, 09/474,779 entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR NETWORK BANDWIDTH OPTIMIZATION ~~USING~~ IN ACCORDANCE WITH CARD DETECTION," filed on ~~the same date herewith~~ December 30, 1999 by Ayman Bedair, et al.; and

U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. _____, 09/474,778 entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR NETWORK BANDWIDTH OPTIMIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACTIVE COMMUNICATION DETECTION," filed on ~~the same date herewith~~ December 30, 1999 by Ayman Bedair, et al.

2. On page 7, third full paragraph, amend lines 26-32 to read as follows:

As shown in FIG. 9, ~~seven~~ each of switching matrices, 60, 855, and 895 include a multiplexer/demultiplexer 900 and a register 910. Although register 910 is shown as separate from multiplexer/demultiplexer 900, multiplexer/demultiplexer 900 and register 910 could be combined in a single device. Multiplexer/demultiplexer 900 formats and receives packets sent over data link 710 and outputs parallel data to a switch 920 or an IP packet to data link 710, using, for example, a field programmable gate array. Register 910 stores a value that indicates the maximum channel number in the packet.